

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

/162 W

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R 021740Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1393

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 679

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MR KU SA EG

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN FONMIN TRAVELS TO LIBYA AND PENINSULA

1. FONMIN MOUKNASS LEFT NOUAKCHOTT AUGUST 1 ON TWO WEEK TOUR OF ARABIAN PENINSULA COUNTRIES. SCHEDULED TO STOP BRIEFLY ENROUTE IN TRIPOLI WHERE HE WOULD DELIVER FIRST OF SEVERAL TRADITIONAL "PERSONAL" MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, MOUKNASS WILL THEN PROCEED KUWAIT AND JIDDA.

2. IN RECENT PUBLIC DECLARATIONS BY PRESIDENT AND IN PRIVATE COMMENTS BY MOUKNASS, KUWAIT HAS FIGURED HIGH ON MAURITANIAN LIST OF HELPFUL ARABS. REPS OF KFAED HAVE RECENTLY VISITED HERE AND MAURITANIA IS APPARENTLY REGISTERED ON WHATEVER SHORT LIST KUWAIT MAINTAINS OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE KFAED MONEY WITHOUT AT SAME TIME BEING IN ARAB LEAGUE. PROJECT ASSISTANCE IS HOPED FOR IN AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND INDUSTRY. KUWAIT HAS ALSO, AS REPORTED EARLIER, PLEDGED

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SUBSTANTIAL DEPOSIT TO MAURITANIA'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED CENTRAL

BANK.

3. RE SAG, MAURITANIAN HOPES REMAIN HIGH THAT MAJOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. SAUDI AMBASSADOR ADVISES THAT A SAUDI DELEGATION WILL VISIT HERE WITHIN 1-2 MONTHS. SLOWNESS OF SAUDI ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IS UNDERSTOOD BY MOUKNASS, WHOSE OWN GOVERNMENT STANDS SECOND TO NONE IN THIS RESPECT. FONMIN CONFIDENT THAT FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY FAISAL WILL SOONER OR LATER BE TRANSLATED INTO TANGIBLE AID.

4. LIBYA. FONMIN IS DELIGHTED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, THAT UNION WITH EGYPT SEEMS UNLIKELY MATERIALIZE. HE TOLD ME DAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON LATEST TRIP THAT SADAT HAD FRANKLY EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS THAT EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN UNION WOULD EVER BE ACHIEVED IN TALKING WITH OULD DADDAH WHEN THEY LAST MET, AT ADDIS OAU SUMMIT IN MAY. AT THAT TIME SADAT HAD CITED HIS NEED FOR CAREFUL HANDLING OF EGYPTIAN COPT COMMUNITY AND HIS COUNTRY AND RELAXED VIEWS ON WHISKEY CONSUMPTION AS BUT TWO ISSUES ON WHICH HE WOULD BE UNLIKELY EVER TO SATISFY QADHAFI. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY NOTED, "QADHAFI DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HE CANNOT PUSH A THREE THOUSAND YEAR CIVILIZATION AROUND TO FIT HIS WHIMS."
MURPHY

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